

MEDICAL WASTE — UNWANTED MEDICATIONS

Improper disposal can result in serious harm to humans, animals, and the environment.



SAFE DISPOSAL

CLARK COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS

WHAT ARE UNWANTED MEDICATIONS?

Unwanted medications include prescription or over-the-counter drugs that are outdated, not wanted, or no longer needed. People often inherit prescription or over-the-counter drugs when a relative or friend has passed away.

WHY IS IMPROPER DISPOSAL DANGEROUS?

Proper drug disposal is an emerging issue in the environmental arena. All medications applied or ingested may be excreted or washed into sewage systems and discharged to the environment. The risks posed to humans by long-term consumption of minute quantities of medications in drinking water, as well as the risks to the environment by continual exposure are unknown. Flushing unwanted medications down the toilet or throwing them in the garbage just adds to the problem.

HOW CAN I SAFELY DISPOSE OF UNWANTED MEDICATIONS?

- Return unwanted medications to participating pharmacies (for a list of these pharmacies go to www.clark.wa.gov/recycle/publication.html and click Participating Pharmacy Disposal List).
- Return unwanted medications to your physician. Ask your physician if he/she will take unwanted medications for safe disposal.
- Take unwanted medications to a household hazardous waste collection facility or event.
- Take unwanted controlled substances to the Clark County Sheriff's Department, West Precinct.

For disposal locations and collection information, please see back of brochure.

MOST PARTICIPATING PHARMACIES WILL ACCEPT UNWANTED MEDICATIONS

at no charge if the they:

Are in the original container with the name of the medicine clearly visible

Are in a container that is not leaking and is capable of being sealed

Have all patient information removed or obscured

Are not controlled substances

REMEMBER!

Always call before transporting unwanted medications. Not all medications can be taken to every disposal site. Some medications must be taken to special sites for proper disposal.

Ask your doctor or pharmacist if your unwanted medication is classified as a controlled substance.

MEDICATIONS IN OUR WASTE WATER

In 2002 the United States Geological Survey (USGS) published the results of a two-year study that included nationwide sampling and analysis of streams for wastewater contaminants including prescription drugs, over-the-counter drugs, and hormones. The study results indicated that many wastewater contaminants were present at detectable quantities in rivers across the nation. While the concentrations detected in the study were low and rarely exceeded drinking water guidelines or aquatic life criteria, the USGS pointed out that standards haven't been set for many compounds because we don't yet know enough about them or their effect on human or environmental health.

Solid Waste Planning and Programs are a cooperative effort of Battle Ground, Camas, Clark County, La Center, Ridgefield, Vancouver, Washougal, and Yacolt.



HOW CAN I SAFELY DISPOSE OF UNWANTED MEDICATIONS?

Take unwanted medications (except controlled substances) to one of the following locations:

Central Transfer and Recycling Center

11034 N.E. 117th Avenue, Vancouver

(360) 256-8482

Saturday & Sunday, 8 A.M. – 4 P.M.

West Van Materials Recovery Center

6601 N.W. Old Lower River Road, Vancouver

(360) 737-1727

Friday & Saturday, 8 A.M. – 4 P.M.

Philip Services Corporation

625 S. 32nd Street, Washougal

(360) 835-8594

First Tuesday, 10:30 A.M. – 3:30 P.M.

Mobile collection events

Call Clark County Public Works

(360) 397-6118 ext. 4352

Unwanted controlled substances can be taken to:

Clark County Sheriff's West Precinct

505 N.W. 179th Street, Vancouver, (360) 397-6079

Monday – Friday, 8 A.M. – 5 P.M.

For more information about unwanted medical waste and other household hazardous wastes, please call (360) 397-6118 ext. 4352 or visit www.clark.wa.gov and click on Solid Waste and Recycling.



For an alternative format, contact the Clark County ADA Compliance Office.
Voice (360) 397-2025 TTY (360) 397-2445 E-mail ADA@clark.wa.gov



Recycled



Recyclable

Printed on 100 percent recycled paper containing
50 percent post-consumer waste.